

The NPI is here. The NPI is now. Are you using it?

This is an important message for institutional providers that bill Medicare fiscal intermediaries (FI's) and A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MAC's).

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is pleased to report that the vast majority of institutional provider claims are being sent to Medicare with a National Provider Identifier (NPI). Moreover, the Medicare NPI crosswalk has been in successful operation for all institutional provider claims since June 2007. Given these favorable results, we are taking the next step towards full implementation of the NPI in Medicare.

Effective January 1, 2008, your Medicare fee-for-service claims received must include an NPI in the primary fields on the claim (i.e., the billing and pay-to fields). You may continue to submit NPI/legacy pairs in these fields or submit only your NPI. Claims with only a Legacy provider identifier for the primary fields will be returned as unprocessable. You may continue to include legacy only for the secondary fields, if you choose. Failure to submit an NPI in the primary fields will result in your claim being returned as unprocessable, beginning January 2, 2008.

In addition, if you already bill using the NPI/legacy pair in the primary fields and your claims are processing correctly, now is a good time to submit to your contractor a small number of claims containing only the NPI. This test will serve to assure your claims will successfully process when only the NPI is mandated on all claims.

Important Information for All Medicare Providers

CMS recently made available a document that will assist physicians and non-physician practitioners in completing form CMS-855I, Medicare Provider Enrollment Application – Physicians and Non-Physician Practitioners. This document contains several enrollment scenarios and indicates where on the CMS-855I the National Provider Identifier (NPI) is to be reported. It also indicates when the CMS-855R and/or the CMS-855B need to be completed. The document is available from

www.cms.hhs.gov/Medicareprovidersupenroll/Downloads/EnrollmentNPI.pdf

Need more Information?

Not sure what an NPI is and how you can get it, share it and use it? As always, more information and education on the NPI can be found through the CMS NPI page

www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand on the CMS website. Providers can apply for **an** NPI online at ***<https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov>*** or can call the NPI enumerator to request a paper application at 1-800-465-3203. Having trouble viewing any of the URLs in this message? If so, try to cut and paste any URL in this message into your web browser to view the intended information.

Getting an NPI is free - not having one can be costly.